



**DIANNE JACOB**  
**VICE-CHAIRWOMAN**  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** September 16, 2008  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**SUBJECT:** A FAIR REVIEW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

**SUMMARY:**

**Overview**

California is experiencing a boom in the development of clean, renewable sources of energy, including wind, solar and geothermal generation. Southern California's deserts and other eastern rural areas are experiencing a proliferation of proposals for renewable generation projects, most on federal public lands. A landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between San Bernardino County and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) seeks to give that county an adequate voice in the processing of renewable projects by requiring both jurisdictions to work collaboratively together on environmental reviews and public participation.

In recent years, proposals for renewable energy projects, particularly wind energy, have increased in the eastern area of San Diego County, most on federal land. Today's action will determine whether an MOU, modeled after the existing MOU between San Bernardino and BLM, might be beneficial to San Diego County.

**Recommendation(s)**

**VICE-CHAIRWOMAN JACOB**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to analyze the existing MOU between the Bureau of Land Management and San Bernardino County regarding renewable energy projects and, if determined beneficial, work with BLM to establish a similar MOU with the County of San Diego.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

**SUBJECT:** A FAIR REVIEW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

California is experiencing a boom in the development of clean, renewable sources of energy, including wind, solar and geothermal generation.

Southern California's deserts and other eastern rural areas are experiencing a proliferation of proposals for renewable generation projects, most on federal public lands. The vast majority of these projects are being proposed for San Bernardino County's high desert.

A landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between San Bernardino County and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) seeks to give that county an adequate voice in the processing of renewable projects by requiring both jurisdictions to work collaboratively together on environmental reviews and public participation.

The MOU gives San Bernardino County the ability to review applications and, when warranted, become the lead agency for some of them. While the agreement does not empower San Bernardino County to reject projects, it requires that issues raised by that county be addressed.

In recent years, proposals for renewable energy projects, particularly wind energy, have increased in the eastern area of San Diego County, mostly on federal land. Currently, there are less than a half dozen applications on file with the BLM. While increasing the development of renewable energy can help lessen our nation's dependence on foreign oil, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and lower fuel costs, the location of large commercial generation projects in rural communities and on sensitive lands can have significant undesirable impacts.

It is possible that the provisions of the MOU between BLM and the County of San Bernardino can help our own county balance the development of renewable energy sources with the best interests of surrounding communities and sensitive lands. I urge your support!

**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB  
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN  
Supervisor, Second District

**SUBJECT:** A FAIR REVIEW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**CONCURRENCE(S)**

<b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

**Other Concurrence(s):** N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** District Two

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:** \_\_\_\_\_